Divorce By Consent.

It was something of a surprise to most people to learn that the highest court in one of the New England States would grant a avorce upon the consent of the parties; yet this appears to be precisely what the Su preme Court of Rhode Island has done in the celebrated SPRAGUE divorce suit.

The judgment dissolving the marriage was agreed upon by the husband and wife, through their respective counsel, before the hearing. Then, in order to make a show of compliance with the law, a little testimony was taken to sustain the allegation that the busband had neglected to provide necessaries for the wife, although able to do so; and thereupon the farce ended.

The legal text books which lay down the rule that collusion will defeat an application for divorce as being now a part of the law of Bhode Island are evidently in error.

Here was the clearest possible case of collusion. Nobody attempted to conceal the met that both parties were willing and anxlous to have a divorce granted on the ground of non-support. The Court obligingly aided them in dissolving the marriage contract at their own pleasure.

It is not to be assumed that in so doing the Supreme Court of Rhode Island disregarded the law of that State. The inference, and the only inference of which the facts are capable, consistent with propriety in the action of the Court, is that collusive divorces, or divorces by consent, are legal within the territory of Rhode Island and Providence Plan-

The laxity of the law there in this respect would seem likely to attract to that State all those who are dissatisfied with their marriages. Of course the Supreme Court would sanction a collusive divorce between those who were poor and unknown as readily as between a man who had been Governor and Senator and a woman who was the daughter of a late Chief Justice of the United States.

Not a Wise Plan.

One of the propositions now before Congress for infantry reorganization provides that this arm of the military service shall be transformed to the twelve companies system, thus making it harmonize with the organization which prevails in the cavalry and artil-

This part of the plan is based on correct principles; for there is no reason, now that Mank rifle companies have ceased to exist, why infantry regiments should have but ten companies each, while those of the other two arms have twelve; and there is a distinct advantage in being able to divide each regiment into either three or four exactly equal parts, if necessary, the division into three equal battalions, each constituted precisely the same, under the command of a Major, being particularly desirable in our service, with its numerous small garrisoned posts To secure this result the only needed addition to each infantry regiment will be one Major, and the increased cost would be more shan balanced by the abolition of many Colonelcies and Lieutenant-Coloneleies in consolidating the regiments; for the two extra companies for each regiment could be obtained by breaking up about five existing regiments and dividing their companies among the rest.

But this simple mode of producing the desired result is by no means the one proposed in the scheme before Congress. Its and southern regularing follows:

"And be it further enacted. That in time of peace each of the regiments shall be fully officered, but only eight comnames manned: that in time of war the President of the companies of each regiment, and at his discretion to in trease the strength of all the companies to 100 men."

This plan, then, instead of giving the country tweive companies at all times in active service, gives only eight; and while it provides for carrying along all the officers of the third battalien, on the pay roll, it furnishes them, except in case of war, no men to command. This is exactly contrary to the demands which Gen. SHERMAN and Lieut.-Gen. SHERIDAN made in their last annual reports. What they asked was not a greater proportion of commissioned officers to enlisted men than the present, but a greater proportion of men to officers. That is to say, they wished to enlarge the enlisted strength of the companies, and hence of regiments, even if they should leave the officers just as they are.

The pending bill in the House, however, would actually reduce the enlisted strength of the infantry regiments, and yet increase the number of officers. The tables by which the bill was accompanied, in its first form of petition or suggestion, urged the change partly on the ground of a decreased expense

Difference in favor of latter \$5,076 Multiplied by No. of regiments 25 29,886) 110,52 Baving in infantry corps.

This exhibit looks promising at first; but, when we carefully examine the items from which the gross sums are produced, we observe that no fewer than 41 commissioned officers are provided for in the proposed new regimental organization, while there are only 35 in the present, thus making an aggregate increase of 150 officers in the twentyfive regiments. We next perceive that there most useful military element, the sergeants and corporals, making a total reduction of 450 of this non-commissioned strength in the we observe that the number of privates is reduced from 426 in the present ten companies of a regiment to 314 in the eight companies which would be kept manned, making a reduction of 82 in each regiment, and a total reduction, in this real working force, for the twenty-five regiments, of 2,050 privates. A scheme which takes away from the active force 2,500 enlisted men in order to increase the number of commissioned officers commanding this reduced force would make

progress backward. Finally, on examining the ways in which the so-called saving occurs, we figure that the pay of all the present commissioned offiers in an infantry regiment, from Colonel to | a usurper, whose action would doubtless be Second Lieutenants inclusive, amounts to \$59,600 a year; but this pay under the pend- Congress were constitutionally elected in ing bill would amount to \$70,640 a year. And | Peru. We may here aski that the most curyet, as we have seen, the working force for the officers to command would have been greatly decreased! As the net result is a besening of aggregate pay by \$5,976 in each regiment, it follows, and the figures show it, that the supposed economy is effected by cutting off \$5,064 from the pay of the latter, at the cost of giving up a large part of the enlisted strength. Meanwhile the amount

the twenty-five regiments is increased by the large am of \$280,000, and the added officers, in time of peace, will have no men to com-

The Morton Contract with the Credit

The resolution by which the House of Repesentatives has directed an investigation of he Peruvian scandals is broad enough to cover not only Minister HURLBUT's alleged implication in speculative schemes, but Min-Ister Mobron's contract with the Credit Industriel. We propose at this time to examine the plans and operations of this French company in the light of the official papers ommunicated to Congress.

We published yesterday a curious letter

addressed to us by Mr. R. E. RANDALL, and perhaps a little comment may now be useful. This gentleman thinks that certain assertions recently made by as are not sustained by facts. He denies that Mr. Evants ever gave him any "hint respecting the expediency of Interesting American citizens in its (the Crédit Industricl's) business." But we made no such assertion. We said, and now repeat, that an intimat on to that effect was given by Mr. Evants to the "agents" of the company, meaning, of course, its accredited representatives, Count DE MONTFERRAND and M. SUAREZ. The evidence of such a suggestion is found, among other indications, in a letter from SUAREZ, numbered 429 in the official compilation, and aver ing: "I have thought it right and proper verbally to promise Mr. Evalers that the agency for guano and nitrates in the United States should be placed under the patronage of a first-class American house." Mr. RANDALL is equally unlucky in his contradiction of our statement that at the time the contract between the Credit Industriel and Morron, Buss & Co. was entered into (Aug. 27, 1881), the senior partner of the favored firm had been appointed American Minister to France. We reiterate the assertion, and recommend Mr. RANDALL, before he rushes into print again, to refresh his memory concerning the date at which Minister Monron was nominated and confirmed. Mr. RANDALL goes on to say, "The agency of Morron, BLISS & Co. was not sought for the reasons you state." We stated no reasons. We demanded an explanation of the reasons, and the House of Representatives has echoed the demand. find next that our suggestion that "the real purport of the Monron contract is indicated in the memorandum annexed," and that "the political influence of the senior partner at Washington on behalf of the French company" may have been the consideration, is pronounced absolutely unfounded. Why? Because "the memorandum was asked for by the company." Inasmuch as the stipulation contained in the memorandum made the Morron agency terminate unless the United States should intervene within a given time in the Chili-Peru imbroglio, we have no doubt that this condition was imposed by the interested party. It was agreed to, however, by MORTON, BLISS & Co. Finally, we are fold by Mr. RANDALL that "the Credit Industriel asks no favors of the United States," and that its philanthropic proffer was brought to the attention of our Government at the urgent instance of the Peruvian Government." What Peruvian Government? That of the usurper, Pierola, or that of the pretended de facto President, CAL-DERON? As to the favors asked, they are disclosed in the papers already published by the State Department, and from which we shall presently adduce some interesting extracts.

casionally figures in the official despatches relating to this subject as the American "attorney and counsel" of the Crédit Industriel. Let us see now precisely what the claims were which this French company wished to enforce, and by what means it hoped to enforce them. The demands of the Crédit Inat. Paris on Jan. 7, 1880, with Commissioners representing the Prado Government of Peru, and the extraordinary features of this agreement are set forth on page 692 of the volume containing the official documents lately published by the State Department. It is provided, for example, that all the guano deposits now known or to be discovered in Peru, and all the nitrate beds belonging to the Peruvian Government, shall be made over to the exclusive control of a commercial company to be organized by the Crédit Industriel. Peru was to receive \$10 per ton for the guano extracted, and in case more than \$62 per ton should be obtained, she was to have one-half of such excess. No export tax was to be levied. Any extraction guano except by the company was to be regarded as robbery, and punished as a penal offence. Next we find that on all nitrates sold the company was to pay Peru \$10 per ton and one-half of all excess above a selling price of \$80 per ton. Of the nitrate production, also, the company secured a virtual monopoly, because no export duty could be laid on its own shipments, whereas other nitrates had to pay \$1 per quintal, a burden which the Peruvian Commissioners covenanted to raise to \$1.60. This export duty. moreover, on nitrates belonging to private Peruvian citizens was to be collected by the French company, which was authorized to retain one-half of its proceeds. Finally, the contract was to run (page 693, Official Documen64) until the French company saw fit to cancel every Peruvian bond issued in 1870 and

The purport of the concessions here set forth is unmistakable. They constitute a virtual assignment of all the available assets of Peru to a private corporation, which, moreover, being permitted to collect customs on the most lucrative export staple, was to be subrogated in an important executive function of the Government. No Governis a reduction for each regiment of 18 in that | ment which could fairly pretend to represent the will of a free people would enter into such a transaction, and we must keep the fact steadily in view that the contract of Jan. twenty-five regiments. In the third place, 7, 1880, has never been ratified by any constitutional Peruvian authorities. While the Peruvian Commissioners were engaged in negotiation with the Credit Industriel, PRADO was overthrown at Lima (Dec. 23, 1879), and one of the first acts of the usurper PIEROLA was to repudiate the action of the Commissioners. Subsequently measures were taken to "peconcile" PIEROLA (see page 717, Official Documents) to the Crédit Industriel scheme. whose provisions were substantially reaffirmed by new centracts executed Feb. and 8, 1881. So far, therefore, as the inparalleled privileges conceded to the Crédit Industriel have been ratified at all. they rest solely on the suspicious sanction of repudlated the instant a President and a sory calculation of the profits accruing to the French company under the contract above described will suffice to explain the affected liberality of its offer to pay an annuity (see page 732, Official Documents) of £550,000 to Chill, and of £400,000 to the Peru-

> As to the "favors" asked by the Credit Industriel of the American Government, they

vinn Government.

tinct and emphatic language in the correspondence of its agents with our State Department (Official Documents, pages 686 to "You are certainly aware," writes SUARRE to Mr. EVARTS (page 698), "that the financial and commercial aid tendered by the Crédit Industriel will be of no avail if it is not properly offered to the belligerents under the auspices of a great friendly power ready to mediate and adjust their mutual claims, * * and, if necessary, to assume the high position of international trustee." Mr. Evarts civilly declined to oblige the French speculators with a threat of armed intervention, or to impose on the United States the rôle of international trustee. On the other hand, his successor, Mr. BLAINE, had no objection to take an attitude looking to American interference, and to the denial of a territorial indemnity to Chili, but having a decided preference for the LANDREAU claim, he did not propose that this step should accrue to the profit of the French company. His intentions were soon discovered, and it appears from the official documents that the agents of the Crédit Industriel left the State Department in comparative peace until after BLAINE's departure, when their activity was resumed.

As to the true purport of the Morron contract with the Crédit Industriel, it may be well, pending the results of an investigation, to compare the stipulation in the memorandum annexed to the main instrument with a curious allusion in a recent letter of Mr. SUAREZ to Mr. FRELENGHUYSEN. The memorandom stipulates that the exclusive agency for the sale of guano and nitrates in the United States, given to MORTON, BLISS & Co., shall terminate within six years from date, in case the extravagant concessions made to the Credit Industriel by PIEROLA and above disclosed "should fail to become operative and effective in consequence of the failure of the United States to mediate between Chili, Peru, and Belivia, and thus to secure peace and the recognition of the concessions, rights, and privileges granted to the French company. Beside this covenant let us place the following significant passage in a letter dated Jan. 13, 1882, and addressed by Mr. SUAREZ to Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. After enlarging on the "wise, firm, and thoroughly American policy pursued by Gen. HURLBUT, and on the "brilliant occasion" now offered the American Government to carry out the plan of intervention in the interest of the Crédit Industriel, Mr. Suarez says: "Allow me, sir, to complete this statement by adding that the legation of the United States in France can forward to your department whatever information you may deem necessary concerning the financial standing of said companies and about the legal character of their well-established rights." Two queries are suggested by this interesting passage. First, why should our State Department be reminded by the obscure agent of a foreign corporation of the notorious fact that the United States have an official representative in France? Secondly, would a person interested in the contract with Morroy, BLESS & Co. be the proper medium through which to seek information touching " the legal character of the rights" of the Crédit Industriel

Is the World in Danger from a Comet

Mr. RICHARD A. PROCTOR'S suggestion that the great comet of 1843, which some astronomers think revisited the neighborhood of the sun in 1880, is likely to fall into the sun possibly before the end of the present century, coupled with his declaration of belief that if ever the day is to come when "the heavens shall dissolve with fervent heat" the cause of the catastrophe will be the downfall of some great comet on the sun, may undoubtedly awaken anxiety in many minds. From time beyond memory men have been terror-stricken by prophecies of the approaching end of the world. The that may be produced even effect by the predictions of a pretended witch dustriel are based on a contract entered into lent Mother Shirron prophecy caused absolute terror in some cases, and a feeling of alarm among many who are not counted as superstitious persons by their acquaintance. If people are so prone to accept the evil prognostications of mere soothsayers, they cannot but be affected by a menacethat appears to be backed with scientific authority. It is, therefore, worth while to examine the grounds upon which it is assumed that the earth is in danger from a comet, in order to

set at rest the fears of those disturbed. In the first place, Mr. PROCTOR is careful not to state that the catastrophe suggested is surely going to happen. Ho puts it rather as an hypothesis; but it is surrounded by so many statements which appear to give it support that it has the weight of a positive prediction for those not acquainted with the facts. The truth is, the whole argument is made up of a series of hypotheses, most of which have no ground of experience to stand upon. It is assumed, in the first place, that the comet of 1880 is identical with that of 1843. which in turn is assumed to be identical with the comet of 1668. Now, this question of the identity of comets of long or uncertain periods is one of great difficulty. It is based upon observation of their orbits in the neighborhood of the sun. If two comets appear to move in the same orbit, they are assumed to be identical. In the case of HALLEY's comet the calculations were confirmed in a striking manner. But generally there is nothing more uncertain than the calculation of a comet's orbit, except in the case of comets of short period. Mr. Proctor himself has shown how apt astronomers are to err in this matter, owing to the necessary uncertainty of observations upon comets. Equally skilful mathematicians have differed thousands of years in their estimates of the orbital periods of the same comets.

This very comet of 1843 is one of those about whose orbit the greatest uncertainty exists. The identity of the comets of 1880, 1843, and 1668 cannot, therefore, be regarded as proved. Yet Mr. Proctor practically assumes it as a fact, and from it is deduced the conclusion that the period of this comet has been reduced in a single revolution from 175 to 37 years. This retardation is said to have been caused by the comet approaching so close to the sun as to pass through the matter forming the corona. Its period, according to the assumption, must have been still further reduced in 1880, so that it may return in about 1897, and either then or at some not distant future time be absorbed by the sun. It is true that the comets of 1668, 1843, and 1880 all approached unusually close to the sun. Yet there is no proof that they drew successively nearer to the sun. On the contrary, so far as the evidence goes, though that is meagre enough, in respect to the earliest comet of the three, the counct of 166s approached closer than the others, while those of 1843 and 1880 each approached within about the same distance.

According to Mr. Procton, the danger to the earth in case a great comet fell into the sun, would be in the sudden and enormous increase of the sun's energy caused by the conversion of momentum into heat Yet, although the comet in question is as sumed to have been greatly retarded in 1813, and again in 1880, by almost grazing the sun's necessary for the pay of infantry officers in are repeatedly formulated in the most dis-surface, no effect was perceived from the

conversion of this momentum into heat, so that even if the comet should fall into the sun, it is doubtful whether enoughiheat would be added to the solar orb to affect the earth.

On this point the case of a telescopic star in the Northern Crown, which in 1866 suddenly flamed up into many times its former brilliancy and soon after faded again beyond the reach of the unassisted eye, is cited as if it were an argument from experience. And so it may appear to the reader who has no special knowledge of astronomy. Yet, in fact, it is a mere hypothesis used to support another hypothesis. Astronomers do not know why the star in the Northern Crown flamed out so brilliantly. That it was caused by a comet falling into the star is a mere guess, only one of the hypotheses which have been invented to account for this and similar appearances in the stars.

There is, moreover, no reason to think that any known comet possesses sufficient mass to cause disastrous results to the earth by falling into the sun. Comets are continually traversing the solar system, passing among the planets on their way to and from the sun, and in no instance has one ever been known to sway even the smallest planet in the slightest degree out of its course. But the planets exert a great influence upon the course of the comets. LEXELL's comet, which more than a century ago got entangled with Jupiter's moons and was flung out of the solar system by that giant orb, never to reappear again, had a huge head, 2] degrees in diameter, yet it produced not the slightest effect upon the slightest effect upon the clocklike movements of those little satellites. BIFLA's comet had a nucleus which split in two and finally disappeared, and all that was ever seen of it afterward was a shower of shooting stars in 1872, believed to belong to its train. The spectroscope has been looked to for a solution of the problem of the composition of comets, but It has as yet furnished only a partial answer. "As the case now stands," says Prof. NEWCOMB, "we must regard the spectrum of a comet as something not yet satisfactorily accounted for." It may be, he says, comets will be found to consist of some combination of solid and gaseous matter, the exact nature of which is not yet determined; or this matter may be of a nature, or in a form, wholly unlike anything we are acquainted with or can produce on earth. Prof. Young says the observations of last summer added very little that is absolutely new to our knowledge of the composition of comets, but they made certain some things that astronomers were not quite sure of before, as, for instance the existence of hydro-carbon gas in comets and also the fact that they reflect some sunlight. All the evidence goes to show that the proportion of solid or liquid matter in a comet is small. Most of their

visible bulk is of extreme tenuity. It is clear, then, that there is no reasonable cause to be alarmed. It has not been proved that the comet of 1880 was ever seen before, or that it is going to return at any particular time. Even if a comet should fall into the sun, it is unlikely that anybody would be aware of the fact outside of the observatories.

How Shall the Bride Furnish Her House !

A young couple who are able to go to their own house just after their marriage, are very fortunate. A large part of the brides in New York must look forward to beginning their woodded life in a boarding house, a hotel, or at best in a small apartment. Rents here are now so high that a desirable house is far beyond the reach of the great majority of the newly married. Apartments of the better class are also expensive, and if they are especially desirable, there is so great a demand for them that they are soon filled. Even good boarding places have been hard to find during the present winter.

A bride who can drive straight from the altar to her own house, or who can look forwas illustrated last year, when the fraudu- ward to making one ready for her use when she becomes a matron, is therefore a woman to be envied that is, if love is with her to preside at the fireside. The furnishing, the beautifying of a home is a most delightful and a very engressing occupation, and all the more so if the income of the newly married pair makes economy necessary, and yet is enough to provide them with reasonable comforts. Because their joint purse is light. they must deliberate longer before they buy, and that makes the article acquired the more

valuable and suggestive to them. Fortunately, at this time a house can be tastefully furnished without a great outlay of money. It may be made to show that it occupants are people of refinement and aschetic cultivation, and yet it may not contain a single expensive article. It may be so appointed that it shall be attractive both because of its comfortable and tasteful anpointments, and still be the home of people who are forced to husband their resources with the greatest care. Money, no matter how abundant it may be, cannot make up for the lack of good taste, but good taste can

easily offset a deficiency in money. And especially is this the case when the house to be furnished is in the country. That is where a fortunate bride who asks us some questions regarding the appointment of her house, is about to settle down. She is fortunate is having a home of her own in which to start out in married life, and fortunate in the ability to decorate it according to her own notions; more fortunate still if, as we doubt not, she is supported by the love and confidence of her husband. Here is what she asks:

furnish my home? I am newly married, and my husband said that he preferred to leave the house unfurnished till I came, and to let me exercise my own taste. The rooms are 16 by 20, and I think at least 10 feet pitch; painting oak grained. It is particularly as to the window cur-tains, cornice, centre table for parlor, chairs, and as to sideboard and curtains for the dining room, that I ould plead for some advice. A Young Wire.

Oh. I had forgotten the hall. It is very wide and

handsome. The house has twelve rooms, and this wide hall runs right through it. I live in the country, and I can't buy very costly furniture." Hers seems to be a very nice house to fit

up. But the oak graining is not at all desirable. It gives a common appearance to any room. An imitation of black walnut is better, especially in the country, where you her to do it? have plenty of light for your house; but even that is not the best. Some pleasant colors, not too pronounced, are far preferable. A warm brown is good; so is a Pom peijan red, if used with discretion. As to the hangings for the windows, there is a fine chance for the exercise of taste. Avoid the hideous lambrequins so often seen, with their stiff and meaningless patterns. Get your curtains of some material, no matter how cheap, which hangs in agreeable folds, and have them of a solid color, or of some Moorish or Persian pattern. Very cheap stuffs made of linen can now be purchased and goods of cotton handsomely dyed are suitable for bed rooms. They have a pleasant tone and a nice texture. Then put at the top, instead of the odious lambre-Now, shall she tell her husband the secret quine, a square piece of material of a contrasting color or shade, or nothing but a heavy fringe. Or you can run your curtains

nothing more vulgar.

on a round rod of brass or wood, and so dis-

will do. Avoid those hideous white marble top ones. If it is a plain square or round pine table, with legs painted black, it will serve as well as another. Then put a pretty cloth on it of agreeable colors. That will go far toward making your room bright and cheerful, and the cost of the whole will be less than that of a marble top table or one of

the machine carved monstrosities.

As to the chairs, first of all get those that people can occupy comfortably. A chair is not merely to be looked at, and it is not intended to be an instrument of torture. The same thing is true about sofas. They especially should invite occupancy by their comfortable appearance. Avoid curved-backed chairs with carvings which annoy those who sit in them. There is no need of buying a set of furniture with the chairs matching in their coverings. Get only the articles which by themselves please you, no matter how great the variety, taking care, however, to have them covered with stuffs of agreeable tones of color that go well together. Easy chairs and sofas which show no wood except in the legs, and are upholstered throughout are the best. Wicker chairs are desirable, and they are cheap. Black is a good color for them. Two or three camp chairs, covered with dark and pretty stuff, are also very convenient to bring into use on occasion.

Then put on your mantelpiece, which is probably of marble, a board, covered with a suitable color, and provided with a proper fringe. It will not cost much, and will greatly add to the cheerfulness of the room. Don't undertake to load your parlor with furniture. Comparatively few articles are necessary, and everything in it should have its use or a reason for being there because of its beauty. If you wish to paper the walls, put on a quiet paper of a pleasant tone, with out large figures. Even that which is perfeetly plain is good, provided its color helps to furnish the room and gives a desirable background for pictures.

A good carpenter can make for you a sideboard which will serve any purpose, and be better than the ugly things generally sold in the shops. Paint it black, for instance, giving it several coats, then apply varnish, and it will look like lacquer work. Put a little red stripe around to relieve the black. A box standing on its side, with two or three shelves within it, and perhaps two or three on top, is all you need. A curtain in front will hide the lower shelves, and a piece of dark enamelled cloth on top will complete the thing. There is no need of going to much expense for a sideboard.

Paint the walls of your hall a plain tint-Pompelian red is a good shade—and let the washboard be dark brown, and relieve the edge of the ceiling with a black line. Paint the floor very dark brown, and shellac it. Then lay a strip of carpet half a yard wide through the centre, put up some pegs to hang coats on, provide a table for hats, a jar for umbrellas, and a chair to sit on, and your hall will be all right. Avoid the stiff hat racks of an octopus pattern.

And generally, in carpeting your house ion't think it necessary to fit the carpet into every little jog. Leave a space of sixteen or eighteen inches around it, to be painted dark brown and covered with shellac. And let the arpets be small in figure and quiet in tone.

All this may be done at no great expensewith a very little money, indeed, compared to that often expended in making a single room hideous. The bride who honors us by sking our advice, can make her country home pretty and a model for the whole neighborhood with a small outlay of money, if her taste is good, and she is not tied down by merely conventional notions of house fur nishing. That she may succeed in doing it and that her household may be a model in its peace and harmony, is our hearty wish.

Troubles of Wives.

We receive great numbers of letters from correspondents, detailing their experiences of suffering and wrong in domestic life, which it would not be proper for us to make publi Neither would it be prudent to answer their questions specifically, and give the exact dvice they crave.

The injustice, the III treatment, the crucity

of which they complain, may not be exag gerated in their letters, but not knowing the other side of the cases submitted, we cannot tell whether that is so or not. The writers ask of us a judicial opinion regarding the proper course for them to pursue, which we ould not conscientiously give without taking far more testimony in each case than that furnished us by the men and women who ome to THE SUN with their grievances. For instance, "A Disgusted Wife" in New lersey wants to know about getting her hus band arrested because he will not support her.

But the tone and phraseology of her letter are not such as we have a right to expect from a good wife. "The only objection he has to so doing," she says, "is that he is too darn lazy to do it, and would rather sponge upon her relatives for his daily bread." Are we not justified in declining to interfere in that case The situation of another wife, who signs herself A. B. C., is far more likely to appeal to manly sympathies. During her long mar-

ried life, according to her story, her husband has uniformly treated her in a coarse, mean and cruel way. He has neglected her, has abused her, has subjected her to petty annovances, refuses to support her comfortably, though amply able to do so, has boasted of his unfaithfulness to his marriage vows, and declares his desire to be rid of her and his children, to whom also he denies suitable clothing. These facts she relates in no spiteful tone, but rather like one who comes to the confessional with a crushed spirit.

Shall she apply for a divorce after having endured all this for many years, and, if she does apply, will she be able to get it and alimony? Those are the questions she asks. But whether she has evidence enough on which to base a successful suit for divorce is a matter she must ask the advice of a lawyer about, taking care to go to a conscientious man, and not to one of the shysters who make it their business to encourage divorce cases. If she states her case correctly, she certainly has good cause for leaving a husband so contemptible; but shall we advise

A very different case, not one of ill treatment at the hands of another, but of selforture, is that of a wife who has to bear the weight of a secret she cannot bring herself to reveal to her husband, who is good and kind. She has only lately learned that she was not born in westlock. She was married under her father's name. Does that in validate the marriage? Her aunt, who seems to be a far from consoling relative, tells her it does. It does not, however. She says doubt as to that matter is killing her. But she is only imagining evil. Her marriage is neither void nor voidable because of the circumstance of her birth. She was guilty of no frand, and can rest in peace so far as the validity of her marriage is concerned.

which troubles her? Shall she continue to endure the fear lest the truth be told him by some operise? Of course, no blame rests on her, but he might be shocked by the revelapense with the top piece altogether. You tion. "I am ashamed," she says, "and do don't need a conspicuous cornice. There is | not know what he will say or do in the matter." Nor is she without reason for her hes-For a centre table, any kind of simple table | itation. But of this there can be no doubt:

it is far better that the story should be told to him by her than that it should be brought to his cars by some busybody or some maliclously disposed person. It is a very disagreeable story for her to tell, doubtless; but it is also a very tormenting and dangerous se-

cret for her to keep. These are only a few of the vexatious questions of domestic trouble submitted to us, nor are they the most delicate by any means; but they serve to indicate the difficulty of the task of meeting the many and various demands of a newspaper confessional.

The Philadelphia Press, one of the most vigprous of the hard-driven BLAINE organs, has the following explanation of TRESCOTT'S proposed visit to Rio Janeiro, which it is evi-

dently expected will mend matters: "The envoy left Washington on the 2d of December and sailed from New York on the 3d. On the afternoon of the 2d, as he was about to take a final scheu of th Secretary, he said that he has never visited the west coast of South America, and would be gratified if the Secretary would give him permission to do so. Mr. Blaink hurriedly telephoned to the Navy Department, and learned that a man-of war could be obtained to meet and learned that a man-or war could be obtained to meet the letter of so-called 'instructions,' about which so much controversy has secured. The Secretary was anxious to do what he could to make Mr. Tarscorr's mission agreeable. In view of this explanation, Mr. Blains's letter loses the special significance that has been given it."

From this it would appear that Mr. TREScorr was invested with the dignity of a special envoy, and furnished with a man-ofwar to carry him, solely to gratify his peronal desire to travel, and, of course, to tra vel in due state and at the public expense He was accompanied in this remarkable pleasure excursion by the son of the Secre tary of State. Nepotism is bad enough, but it is insignificant beside such lawless squandering of public money, and such prostitution of the navy and of the diplomatic service, as are gravely recited by the Press.

Very little interest is taken in the trial of the man who tried to shoot GUITEAU. Justice is due one as much as the other, but the successful assassin called down on himself such intense indignation that people will not be so apt to question whether his would-be murderer gets strict justice or not. Yet the punishment of Mason would probably be of much more benefit to the community than the pun ishment of GUITEAU. Men in GUITEAU'S state of mind are not likely to be deterred from crime by the punishment of others, but men like Mason can be taught to know that shooting down the most miserable criminal is not to be

The United States Grand Jury have taken up for investigation the subject of political assessments, and have summoned the members of the Republican State Committee, an ex-United States Senator, officers of the State Legslature, the heads of the Custom House and Post Office, and many other employees of the Government besides, to testify as to how the ssessments are made, and what becomes of

It must be regarded as rather remarkable that he President is popular in spite of the absence of per-onal qualities which Americans are supposed strongly desire in their rulers.—Boston Advertiser.

What sort of a man would our esteemed con emporary like to have for President? Presi dent ARTHUR is good looking, a gentleman in his manners, a man of his word, never dyed his hair, and never did a mean action in his life. What more is wanted?

The danger and absurdity of adopting declaratory resolutions in favor of bringing in new classes of pensioners have at last im-pressed the Senate, and on Tuesday the Pension Arrears resolution was tabled by a seant ma jority. Enough has been done, however, to give the claim agents all possible aid and encouragement, and an active movement for pen-sions to survivors of the Mexican and the various Indian wars may now be looked for. The Senate has by a large majority declared itself opposed to the restriction of such pensions to ases where there is actual disability incurred in the line of duty, and it looks as if there are better opportunities ahead for swindlers than in the days of bounty sumping.

The discovery that American beef had invaded Britannia's own special habitation, her navy caused some inquiries in the House of mmons the other evening, either on grounds of patriotic pride, or for fear lest its effects should be disastrous on the physical and moral condition of the British sailor. On learning that he had been safely fed on this beef for twelve years, and that it costs a fourth less than the British article, saving \$20,000 a year, patriotism subsided. Nourished on sound Amer ican salt beef, there is no saying of what prodigies of virtue and valor the British tar may be capable.

The New Pension for Gen. Grant.

From the Washington Post The mention of Gen. Grant in some quarters anses as much fear and frembling as ever did the name of the Black Douglass called up by Scottish nurses to gulet unruly children. After the action of the Senatesterday in passing the bill to retire Gen. Grant with se rank of tieneral no man need question the potency of his name. The Senate was literally buildozed into th ers did not approve. Upon its own merits it never would have passed, but Republicans, who hoped to ge f politics, and Southern Democrats, who were afraid their negative votes might be misconstrued united in support of this bill. No man who ever set foot in this country has been rewarded like the ex President. The contrast between his position now and twenty one the history of any innerican citizen who ever lived Upon the supposition that the highest civil and militar performance of duty on the part of any of her citizens there is nothing due tien, tirant from his country, tirea have been his services, and equally great have been his

An American Gambling at Monte Carlo.

From the London World. There has been considerable excitement at Monte Carlo over the success of a young American gentleman named Mathews, said to be one of the numerous sons of the late Mr. Singer. This gentleman has cleared over MO.O.O. france during his stay of about a fortnight there, 200,000 france of which he won in threconsecutive nights; his greatest loss in one night amounting to some 70.888 francs, which appeared to be

a very small matter to the intrepid player. M. Lucider of Berlin, well known at Monte Carlo as world, after scarcely putting a note on the table all the winter, tried his fortune the other night, when, after a few deals, he left the table a winner of \$10,000 france. about the largest sum that has been won by a single player in a night this season. Strange to say, even greater excitement than that ever this wonderful luck was caused by the appearance of a lady covered with diamond ornaments, among them being a string of dia-monds each as large as a robin segg, the like of which has never been seen at Monte Carlo.

There are deacons and deacons, but Deacon hard South of Cincinnati richly deserves the epithet which as ribes to him the possession of the real flavor of true goodness. He is now at Columbus arging upon a wars legislature, composed for the most part of pobucians who are anatous to propitiate votes, the passage of a law co-sime saloons upon the Sabhath—that is, upon the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday. The worldings in the Assembly are claiming that such a law annot be enforced, but the Dencen is giving his word for it that it can. If the law is puesed, beacon Richard Smith should be elected Mayor in order that there may be no doubt at all about a strict compliance with its re-

Blaine and ble War Club.

TO THE HOLTON OF THE SUN-Sec. Mr. Bialne. his dealings with the little South American republics argeted and threatened, and his followers land him as reat American statement. When their attention is feed to the companies formed to press like at chine in the companies formed to press like at chine and them, some what their eyes and say they can see them, wearn. What an imposing appearance a next ty would present with our trace of James G. Blaine as one, armed with a club to thresh small countries. The tof. Prevelence of the builted States will never in the e-name of the main of dyspeptic conscience, James Units. Nam Your, Feb. 22

A constant cough, with shortness of health, failing signeth, and wasting of flesh, all believe hings more or less groundly affected and demanding prompt treat the lift. By using the Japach Expectorant scripus regular may be either as closed of paintings.

BUNBEAMS.

-The Rev. R. R. Meredith of Boston has very large people's Bible class in Tremont Temple every Saturday afternoon. Mr. Meredith was formerly a Meth-odist, but is now one of the most conspicuously able men in the Congregational Church.

-The story that Father Gavazzi was arrested and imprisoned for crime in Paris is altogether without foundation in fact. Some of his enemies in London started it, and it has had a wide circulation.

Gavazzi is busy and successful in his Itelian work, -The Central Baptist Church of the city has secured the pastoral services of the Rev. Henry & Sanders, formerly of Yonkers. Mr. Sanders has the reputation of being one of the most brilliant young men in the Baptist Church. He will begin his pastorate on

-The Sunday School Times now becomes the most national organ of Sunday school work on this continent, having absorbed the National Sunday School Peacher of Chicago, which was the great organ for the West. Hazard of Chicago joins Trumbull of Philadel-phia, and goes to become one of the large editorial staff. —Bishop Ryle of England says that much

—DISHOP Ryle of Engineer says that much of the Christianity of to-day is "jelly fish religion," of which the basis is, as far as it has any, "no comma, no distinctive tenet, no positive doctrine." He holds that, both in the Church of England and out of it, there are hundreds of ministers who have not a single bom heir "body of divinity." -The extraordinary spectacle is to be pre-

ented in the Diocese of Minnesota of two women as lay readers in the Protestant Episcopal Church Bishop Whipple has declared his intention of licensing them because men are not to be had. Lay readers in the Episuo-pal Church have not the functions of the ciergy, but are simply licensed by the Bishop to read the service and such sermons as he may put into their hands for the pur-pose. Lay readers do not generally wear the gown, but in this respect these good sisters are already equipped.

-In Trinity Baptist Church this morning, Sunday school Superintendent E. D. Jones will occupy the pulpit and deliver an address to the children. This evening Pastor Simmons will haptize new converts. Mr. Jones, who was one of the most successful Sunday school superintendents of the West, has in two years brought the Sunday school of this church to a state of

-By legal contract, Mr. Miln's connection with the Church of the Unity in Chicago expires after three months' notice. This notice was given him two or three weeks ago. He has the right to continue to be pastor and to draw his salary for the rest of the term. But the new gospel of nothingness into which he has plunged is not satisfactory to his people, and they do not want to hear it preached from the pulpit of their church. How the matter of pastoral relations and duties will be adjusted for the rest of the term is a matter for inquiry in Chicago. The principal difference between Mr. Miln and his people is that they believe in God and heaven, while he is not sure that there is either a God or a future state, —The Rev. Mr. Duff, rector of St. Peter's

Church, Heleno, Moutana, speaks of Montana as one of the most remarkable of all missionary fields. He says that one Biehop and seven clergymen have to work over 145,000 square miles of territory. These devoted labor-ers know nothing of the comfort of city parishes with ers know nothing of the comfort of city parishes with fat salaries. They have to ride on long journeys, with the thermometer at from ten to twenty degrees below zero. The Bishop last summer set out from lickens to visit as much of the diocese as he could reach. He was gone four months, and travelled 3,000 miles, mostly on horseback. He is said to be doing the work of three or four clergymen. There is urgent need of more clergy-men in Montana; but in order to pay them, money is the prime necessity.

-This is the First Sunday in Lent. The Episcopal Churches. The old custom of fasting is grack ually losing its hold on the people, and those who wish o observe Lent generally do so chiefly by attendance or the special services. Even in the Roman Catholic Church, where specific directions are given as to what may or may not be eaten, exceptions are made in behalt inay or may not be eaten, exceptions are made in behalf of invalids and of persons who are engaged in hard work. These two classes comprise a majority of the population, and therefore there is much exemption from the strict rules of fasting. In many of the churches to day, even of the denominations which do not formally keep Lent, the services and sermons will have a penitential tendency. This is more marked on the First Sunday in Lent than on any of its succeeding days until Falm Sunday, which is next before Easter. Among those who keep Lent it is the custom to omit balls, parties, and other social festivities. Some are so strict in their observance of its solemnites that they will not have wed dings in their families between Ash Wednesday and

-Mr. Banta, a prominent Baptist of this city, is a pronounced believer in open communion, and he has written much on the subject, both for the news-papers and in tracts. Such papers as the holependens and the Christian at Work have published his articles, which, of course, would not find admission into the regular Baptist sheets. The Examiner notes the fact that great numbers of Mr. Banta's tracts are sent to Baptists in the central part of this State, soil that cer tain Baptists who receive them are indignant. It does not exactly say that Mr. Banta fells fice in the state ments he makes in these tracts, but it says that " his enormous self-consciousness and the untractableness of his imagination play the mischief with the truthfoliage of his statements." The Examiner is not in favor of hav ing Baptists or others read these documents, but says The only thing to do is quietly to put them, as fact as they come, into the waste basket, without reading a une of them. This is what we have done the last five or six thus appear that, whatever influence Mr Banta's writ, ings may have had on others, they have fallen litered and without power on the editors of the Examiner

-At a fair and festival in a popular church, fried systers were among the dainties served to the mests. These oysters were by some mishap overdene by the time they were placed on the tables. Nevertheless, they were said to be what the bill of fare called for, and as such some of them were paid for and eaten without any very severe eriticism by the persons who never expect to get the full value of their money at a church fair. Vet they proved so dry and unappetizing, that even for the good of the cause, many of the guests declined to eat them. As the church had no steam apparatos for keeping each thing hot, the oversione oysters were unfortunately placed over the furnace register, which made them even more dry than they would otherwise have been. Those which were left over when the fair closed at night remained in this position until morning, by which time they were as dry as sandust, and as juiceless as old ceru hosks. In the morning the charitable blea occurred to some of the ladies that the inmates of the those for the Bettering of Destitute Females did not often have ogsters, and that it would be a good deed to send these ope ters there. Forthwith the dried up things were sent The amount of enjoyment had by the Destitute Females

-One of the most pleasant little devices ever

introduced into a church fair as an aid to money making was the "asthetic concert" given last week at a fair it one of the fashionable churches of Brooklys. The was radically different from all other musical entertainments The withdrawsi of the curtain revenied a lourd covered with canvas and pierced with six boles each large enough to exhibit a part of a human face. Around each hole was the outer part of a sunflower, or other floral decoration. Six well trained singers stood behind this board, and presented a most interesting and comical appearance, as only their noses and mouths appeared through the openings. They same Mother tooms songs to "Patience" airs, and did their work with such con mendable vivacity as to make their "asthetic concert" the principal side show of the entertainment. The patrons of this concert were pladged not to tell the other persons what it consisted of, but to let them satisfy their own curiosity on paying the dime which was charged for admission to each repetition of it. The show, which lasted for only about fifteen minutes, was repeated a number of times in the course of the evening and yielded a handsome return to the treasury of the fair. It was suggested to the paster that if he would announce to day that his choir would for a few Sundays be praced In front of the congregation, rigged as was this company of asthetic performers, the church would be packed The good dominic does not see his way clear to consent

-The International Sunday school lesson for to-day is on "The Growth of the Kingdom," as well ten in Mark iv., 21-34. Jesus was still in thatire expounding by the senside to a great company of bearers, embracing all classes of persons. After the parabological the sower and the send, which was the less what a mistake it is to think that our deads whether observation of the Almighty. The object of high to as at forth. A lamp is not to be concealed noise a dark cover, but to be stood where people will have the benefit of derays. Those who are illumined by the spirit of good an as shining lamps, to give desired light. The greated grace in the heart is in the second part of the recent compared to that of seed which is put tute the record At first it is hardly porce; tinde, not the seed or ... in Then it grows into sight: "first the thate then the ear, then the full form in the ear." the cut the true increase in the ear. The additional is then a mandate that the expected a car's testing and in a price of a fact that the true of a failure which is to be found only and or the mandate and those of eight that the control of a car's testing and of the mandate and those of eight testing. When we have adjusted a discountered to the control of the con the growth we are capable of enoughth them to putter forth the sather the miss the largest a come. In is some of green in are somethy conferenced that it is more smaller to expect a new to convented person to make out exhibited by one of long expension. These who have sound judgment in the report will be exceeded by the